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Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Today is World Tobacco Free Day

World Health Organization (WHO) decreed some time back that May 31 will be designated the international day for no tobacco use. This was done in an effort to put emphasis on the devastating fatal consequences of smoking which causes strokes, heart attacks and pulmonary problems.

In Aruba, the Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds (KWK) also observes this day and encourages those who smoke to use this day as the day to stop smoking. It is a known fact that those who put a date on their intent to stop smoking have a greater chance of succeeding. Hence, today, Tuesday May 31st is a perfect day to stop smoking!

The Koningin Wilhelmina Fonds has decided this year to focus on our young people as a preventive means to help them to not start smoking. They will be distributing an educative video to all schools which will serve as an effective tool to help prevent our young people from smoking. The "I Can't Breathe: A Smokers Story" video recounts the emotional story of Pam Laffin, a mother of two kids who through the influence of others began smoking at an early age.



The image created in our society, especially through the movies and television; the false impression that smoking is "normal" and that cigarettes help to reduce weight are all highlighted in the video. This is KWF's valuable contribution to helping prevent our young people to stay away from smoking.

The campaign against smoking was actually taking over by KWF from a group of

concerned citizens who last year began an action selling T-shirts to raise money for this cause. Because the project is primarily focused on children, the Aruba Kiwanis Club contributed with the initial funding to produce the T-shirts. Our Kiwanis Kids also helped by selling T-shirts at a booth at the Paseo Herencia Mall.

Continued on page 5

14 dead in Germany as cucumber crisis grows

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) – Germany yesterday held crisis talks amid reports that at least 14 people have died and hundreds are ill in an outbreak of a highly virulent strain of bacteria found on imported cucumbers.

Belgium and Russia banned the import of vegetables from Spain, believed to be the source of at least some of the contaminated cucumbers. Madrid shot back saying it would seek financial compensation from the European Union for lost sales.

More than two weeks after the food poisoning outbreak was first reported in northern Germany, the number of confirmed and suspected cases has reached 1,200, according to media reports.

The Robert Koch Institute (RKI), Germany's national disease institute, said three deaths have been officially linked to the bacteria, but "in total about a dozen people have died according to regional authorities."

These authorities later yesterday announced two more deaths: a woman of 50 and a man of 75 -- bringing the toll to at least 14.

The Stockholm-based Euro-



pean Center for Disease Prevention and Control has described the outbreak of the strain of E. coli as "one of the largest worldwide and the largest ever reported in Germany."

Authorities in Germany warned against eating raw vegetables after traces of the bacteria were found on organic cucumbers from Spain last week.

But officials said they are unsure what caused the sudden outbreak of enterohaemorrhagic E. coli (EHEC) which can result in full-blown haemolytic uraemic syndrome (HUS), a disease that causes bloody diarrhoea and serious liver damage and possible death.

The outbreak has hit countries including Britain, Denmark, Sweden and the Netherlands, but most these cases appear to involve people who had recently travelled to or from Germany.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Canadians to join Gaza flotilla despite warnings

OTTAWA, Canada (AFP) - A group representing 200 Canadian organizations vowed on Monday to send a boat to the Gaza Strip as part of the second "Freedom Flotilla" despite Ottawa's warnings against "provocative" aid deliveries.

"The Canadian Boat to Gaza (CBG) is dismissing Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird's misinformation about the upcoming flotilla, and is promising to sail with the Freedom Flotilla II next month," the group said in a statement.

"CBG views Minister Baird's statement as an attempt to abdicate the Canadian government's obligation to ensure the safety of the Canadians who will be on board the flotilla, including the Canadian boat Tahrir and to justify, in advance, any crimes Israel may commit against peaceful unarmed civilians from Canada and all over the world,

as it did a year ago tomorrow," it added.

CBG claims to have the support of thousands of Canadians and some 200 local non-profit organizations.

Baird warned against Canadian involvement in the flotilla that organizers say will leave in June for the blockaded Gaza Strip, saying he urged "those wishing to deliver humanitarian goods to the Gaza Strip to do so through established channels."

"Unauthorized efforts to deliver aid are provocative and, ultimately, unhelpful to the people of Gaza," he said.

On May 31, 2010, Israeli marines stormed the Mavi Marmara, the flagship of an international aid flotilla bound for Gaza, killing nine Turkish activists in international waters and drawing international condemnation.

Israel has long claimed that attempts to breach the naval blockade are political rather than genuinely humanitarian.

It has also offered to transfer any bona fide aid shipments directly to Gaza, provided it can inspect the cargo to prevent arms smuggling to Hamas and other militant groups.

International Brief :



A handout picture released by the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) shows Namibian military observers serving with the international peacekeeping operation on the ground during a patrol in the volatile region of Abyei on week-end. United Nations military observers (UNMOs) and peacekeeper patrols have been steadily expanding their reach throughout the Abyei area in an effort to increase visible presence and to step up observation activities after northern troops overran the contested border region.

AFP PHOTO

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Asst. to the editors

Rosalie Klein
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Yvonne Kromhout
P.R., Sales & Marketing

Yanis Garcia
Paula Iglesias
Sales

News Provider:
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Caya G. F. Betico Croes 111
Tel: 588-9517 - Fax: 588-9518

E-mail:
themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Website:
www.themorningnewsaruba.com



TAIYUAN, China : Thousands of Chinese students holding Communist flags gather to mark the 90th anniversary of the founding of China's Communist Party at a school in Taiyuan, north China's Shanxi province yesterday as part of their celebrations for the Children's Day. China has ordered state radio and television to promote the mass study of "red songs", which sing the praises of the ruling Communist Party, official press reported.

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BATANGAS, Philippines : In this photo taken on the week-end shows a fisherman checking dead milk fish at a fish cage in at the Taal Lake in Barangay Sampaloc, Talisay, Batangas City, south of Manila. Several lakeside towns in the Philippines on the weekend were struggling to cope with mountains of rotting fish that were killed by a sudden drop in water temperatures. The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources said more than 750 tonnes of fish had died since Friday in Taal Lake near Manila, hitting several towns whose economies are heavily reliant on the fishing industry.

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FIVE GUYS

Aruba
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Aruba's Airport gets raving review from Director Peter Steinmetz



Peter Steinmetz

During the very information presentations made in Nieuwspoor, the Netherlands, director of Aruba's airport, Mr. Peter Steinmetz talked about the developments at the Aruba airport and the future plans for the airport. The Schiphol Group is the international segment of Schiphol International. Seven years ago Schiphol Group was invited into the Aruba project. This was achieved without the involvement of any great sum of money.

Steinmetz explained that he can demonstrate how effective this project is for Aruba. Making reference to some interesting data, he cited that 2 million

passengers arrive at Aruba annually via our airport. Aruba's airport is very modern and has many international connections, many destinations with the majority of our tourists coming from the US and Canada...about 65%. The Aruba Airport complies with all international norms. Aruba has the US immigration pre-clearance which signifies that for the US Aruba is a domestic airport. Obviously this is coupled to many strict conditions. Aruba is constantly severely audited. On the matter of security, Aruba is on a level much higher than that of the Netherlands. This explained Steinmetz is because of the US influence.

Soon the strict security measures will be amplified for small aircrafts as well. The Aruba Airport is a government owned company which is managed in a transparent manner, which is necessary because of the solvency of the company.

What is important for Holland and Europe, according to Steinmetz, is that the Aruba airport, year round, has flights with large aircrafts from different airline companies from Latin America and Central America. Connections from Aruba are through Miami, Bogota, Panama and in the future this will be amplified with Brazil and Peru. Steinmetz is convinced that Aruba's success is because of our excellent cooperation with our equal partners.

What is the benefit of this for Schiphol? The great advantage is that Aruba is in the region and it is always best to have a partner who is in the region and who knows the region and has such ready access. Aruba is the window, a "trampoline" if you want to expand in the region. According to Steinmetz, the Aruba airport today is a strategic company with an excellent risk profile, excellent financial parameters,

and expertly focused on client service.

Steinmetz proudly announced that the Aruba airport is the recipient of various international marketing awards. Also, Aruba has won second place in all of the US as the

most recommended airport. This means that the Aruba airport stands above, for example, Miami, Dallas, New York, etc. In all of Latin America, Aruba's airport holds the highest ranking for its security. Aruba's airport is not depen-

dent on outside sources for its investments. The airport is not knocking on anyone's doors for loans or other forms of monetary support. The airport is currently undergoing an expansion program financed from its own coffers.

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Costa Linda Memorial Day service 2011 has record attendance



A salute during taps



hundreds gathered to pay their respects



The original five

A touching ceremony on the Eagle Beach dedicated to U.S. Memorial Day took place in front of the Costa Linda Beach Resort yesterday morn-

ing. A group informally dubbed "The Costa Linda Vets," consisting of Frank Nini, Rich Lamonth, Bobby Nadal and Griff McElroy, veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, began this observance in 2004, when it was just five of them.

This year, the group witnessed record participation with at least 200 people gathering on the beach to watch as Griff tossed a memorial wreath into the sea and attending veterans saluted the many who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, beyond all borders and including all loyalties, not only those from the U.S.

The five-minute ceremony was called to order promptly; after the ritual placing of the wreath it finished with a rendition of taps and a salute of respect.

The Costa Linda Vets expressed their gratitude to all those who came to share the moment; those attending, many with tears in their eyes, came to thank them in turn for making the effort to provide this annual tribute.

by Rosalie Klein

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Lawyer: Dutch anti-Islam politician 'never goes too far'

THE HAGUE, the Netherlands -- Dutch anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders often "went far" in his criticism of the Muslim religion, but he never overstepped acceptable boundaries, his lawyer said in court yesterday.

"He goes far, but he never goes too far," lawyer Bram Moszkowicz told the Amsterdam district court where the flamboyant politician faces hate speech charges.

"He doesn't speak out because it's funny. He speaks out over the gravest danger facing our Western civilisation: an increased Islamisation," Moszkowicz told judges.

"Acts of terror have been committed... with the Koran in hand, in London, in Madrid," he added, referring to bombings in the two capitals.

"If there's a threat, Mr Wilders speaks out about it," said Moszkowicz.

Dutch prosecutors also last week argued for Wilders's acquittal, saying that while his comments may have caused anxiety and insult, they were not criminal.

Wilders, the leader of the right-wing Party for Freedom (PVV), went on trial on October last year for criticising Islam and notably likening the

Koran to Hitler's "Mein Kampf."

The trial ended abruptly after three weeks when the judges were ordered to step down by a panel of their peers who upheld claims of bias by the 47-year-old politician.

The trial resumed in March, with prosecutors again stating a previous position that there was no case against Wilders as he was critical of Islam as a religion and not Muslims as a people, and therefore committed no criminal offence.

Wilders, 47, became notorious in 2008 by making a short film, "Fitna", mixing Koranic verses with footage of extremist attacks.

The parliamentarian, whose PVV party gives parliamentary support to a right-leaning coalition, risks up to a year in jail or a 7,600-euro (10,300-dollar) fine for comments made in his campaign to "stop the Islamisation of The Netherlands."

Prosecutors initially dismissed dozens of complaints against him in June 2008 but appeals judges in January 2009 ordered that Wilders be put on trial as his utterances amounted to "sowing hatred" -- compelling an unwilling prosecution to mount a case against him.

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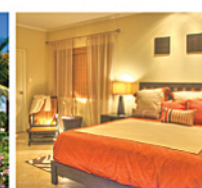
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Arubans making their name in Holland



Francois Guerds, owner of "Ivy" Restaurant in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, invited Prime Minister Eman and Minister Sievinger to their newly inaugurated restaurant. Francois is a SVH Meesterkok (Master Chef). The Aruban dignitaries and their spouses along with Minister for Aruban Affairs in the Netherlands, Edwin Abath were invited to savor some of the different dishes prepared with a special Aruban flavor by Master Chef Francois himself in the elegant Ivy Restaurant.

Francois Guerds has an Aruban mother who lived in San Nicolaas at Lago Heights who obviously passed on her cooking skills and love for the

kitchen to Francois. In honor of his mother, Francois named his one year old restaurant "Ivy," his mom's name. In 2009 Francois also received the special Michelinster (star). It was the first time that a restaurant in the Netherlands received this distinctive star in such a short time.

Francois Guerds has studied and worked in different renowned restaurants. After an intensive study and preparation and working under some of the greatest Chefs, like Gerrit Greveling he succeeded in earning the highest degree as a Chef, the Master Chef title.

Greveling remarked that Francois is a shining example

for the next generation of chefs.

His career exemplifies the long route one must take before you can achieve what you want....to become a Master Chef!

Francois makes his own recipes and is careful to always include Caribbean ingredients like Pumpkins in his dishes. His restaurant is elegant, modern and very appealing. Aruba and The Morning News are very proud of one of our own sons abroad...Francois much exito!



Today is World Tobacco Free Day

Continued from page 1

Several other companies and organizations also contributed; among them were, TERA Group who is the motor behind the marketing aspect of the project. TERA Group did all the marketing work and through their contacts was able to get the cooperation of various groups. This they did completely free of charge.

It has been proven that cigarette smoking causes cancer of the lungs, but also other types of cancer including cancer of the mouth, nose, sinuses, vocal chords (larynx),



pharynx, kidneys, pancreas, uterus, stomach and chronic

leukemia.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) of the USA, it is estimated that a man who smokes will lose about 13.2 years of his life because of smoking. While, for women they will lose about 14.5 years of their lives because of smoking. Recent studies have also shown that the damage caused by smoking begins from the very first cigarette smoked!

Today is World Day of No Tobacco...an ideal day for you to stop smoking!

Sci-Tech

Writer urges Internet junkies to 'switch off' and think



SEOUL (AFP) – Like tens of millions of others, US technology writer Nicholas Carr found the lure of the worldwide web hard to resist -- until he noticed it was getting harder and harder to concentrate.

He sat out his concerns in a celebrated essay headlined "Is Google making us stupid?"

And his latest book "The Shallows" explores in depth what he fears the Internet is doing to our brains.

"The seductions of technology are hard to resist," Carr acknowledges in that book, which has sold an estimated 50,000 hardback copies in the United States alone. But he thinks it's time to start trying.

In a speech at last week's Seoul Digital Forum and an interview with AFP, Carr restated his concerns that IT is affecting the way people think and feel and even the physical make-up of their brains.

Every new technology in history -- like the map and the clock -- changed the way people think but Carr sees special dangers in the Internet.

He got his first PC back in the 1980s and was an avid net user until "a few years ago, I noticed some disturbing changes in the way my mind worked. I was losing the ability to concentrate."

While the Internet has enormous benefits in delivering incredible amounts of information at incredible speed, it's also a distracting and interruption-rich environment.

Carr said it encourages quick shifts in focus -- and discourages sustained attention and the ability to think

deeply and creatively about one topic and to challenge conventional wisdom.

Popularity-driven search engines, in one of the ironies of an information-rich Internet, worsen the problem by leading everyone to the same sources, he said.

Social networks, while pleasurable and fun, increase distractibility by bombarding users with brief bits of information.

"We take in so much information so quickly that we are in a constant state of cognitive overload," Carr argued.

"Multitasking erodes cognitive control. We lose our ability to say that this is important, this is unimportant. All we want is new information." In contrast, when readers open a printed book, "there's nothing else going on except words on a page, no distractions. It helps train us to be deep thinkers."

Carr, 52, told AFP he's not optimistic society will switch off en masse but it's impor-

tant to look clearly at what it might be losing.

And he doesn't feel quite so lonely now that some other authors and TV programme-makers have tackled the same subject. "There are signs, still sporadic and small, that people are beginning to question the effects of technology."

Since the book came out, he said, he had heard from several companies struggling with otherwise intelligent employees who were unable to focus and concentrate on problem-solving.

Carr admitted he himself has not had great success in limiting the time he spends online. But the biggest change he made as a writer and researcher was to use the web only to track down source material.

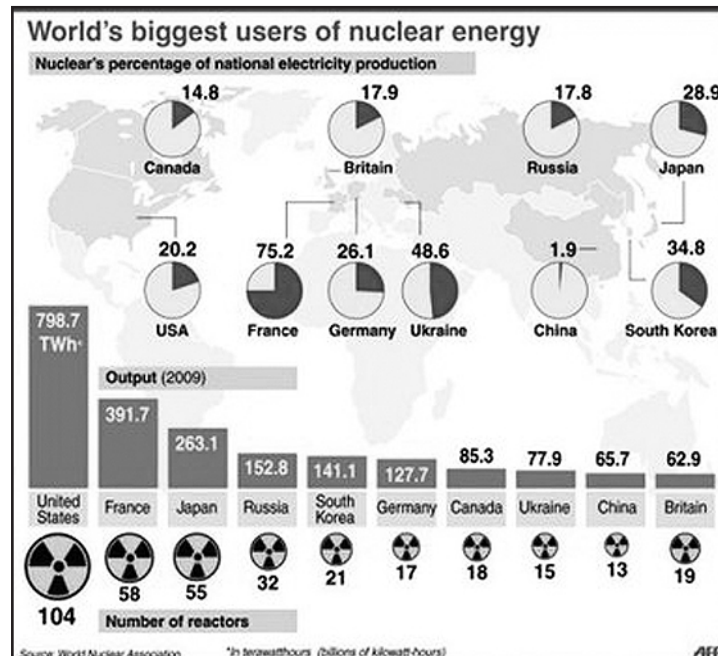
"Then I'd make an effort to actually read those things in print. I did find that made a big difference in my ability to be attentive and a thorough reader and hopefully a deeper thinker."

The author said he had no simple formula for change. But companies could "start sending a signal that it's OK to be disconnected sometimes, it's OK if you don't respond to every email within 45 seconds or whatever".

Employers, governments and schools could also start rewarding and encouraging people to switch off.

But Carr said there is little evidence so far of pressure for change.

"I think as a society we're choosing information overload: we're choosing to sacrifice the more meditative and contemplative aspects of our minds."



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Germany to scrap nuclear power by 2022

BERLIN (AFP) – Germany on Monday became the first major industrialised power to agree an end to nuclear power in the wake of the disaster in Japan, with a phase-out to be completed by 2022.

Chancellor Angela Merkel said the decision, hammered out by her centre-right coalition overnight, marked the start of a "fundamental" re-think of energy policy in the world's number four economy.

"We want the electricity of the future to be safer and at the same time reliable and affordable," Merkel told reporters as she accepted the findings of an expert commission on nuclear power she appointed in March in response to the crisis at Japan's Fukushima plant.

"That means we must have a new approach to the supply network, energy efficiency, renewable energy and also long-term monitoring of the process," said Merkel, whose popularity had suffered over her previous pro-nuclear stance.

The commission found that it would be viable within a decade for Germany to mothball all 17 of its nuclear reactors, eight of which are currently off the electricity grid.

Seven of the reactors already offline are the country's oldest, which the government shut down for three months pending a safety probe after the Fukushima emergency.

The eighth is the Krümmel plant, in northern Germany, which has been offline for years due to repeated technical problems.

Six further reactors are to be shut down by the end of 2021 and the three most modern would stop operating by the end of 2022.

Monday's decision, which could run into legal challenges from energy companies, means Germany will have to find the 22 percent of its electricity needs that were covered by nuclear power from other sources.

The government must now determine how it can make up the difference with renewable energy sources, natural gas and coal-fired plants.

Merkel's spokesman Stefan Seibert said the plan would uphold four priorities: Germany's standing as a top global economy, an affordable and sufficient energy supply, climate protection and independence from energy imports.

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Health & Living

The 30 Years War: AIDS, a tale of tragedy and hope

PARIS (AFP) — On June 5 1981, American epidemiologists reported a baffling event: five young gay men in Los Angeles, all previously healthy, had fallen ill with pneumonia. Two had died.

They would be the first casualties of a new virus which has now claimed more lives than a world war.

Nearly 30 million people have been killed by acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and more than 33 million others have the virus that causes it.

A disease that began as a medical curiosity has spread across the world, its tentacles reaching into every corner of society.

Death, sickness and stigma are the hallmarks of its tale. But so are dazzling medical exploits, unexpected solidarity and smashed taboos.

"AIDS has changed the world, without any doubt," Michel Sidibe, executive director of UNAIDS, said ahead

of the UN's June 8-10 high-level AIDS forum in New York.

"We have been able to break a conspiracy of silence," he said. "And a new social compact has been created between the north and the south, which has never happened before with any disease of this kind."

The early years of the AIDS war are a dark chapter of fear, ignorance and homophobia.

But the term "gay plague" swiftly faded when it was found AIDS could also be contracted through blood transfusion and heterosexual intercourse and from an infected mother to her unborn child.

Mercifully, the fight against AIDS began almost instantly, thanks to gay groups who lobbied for research funds in the United States and campaigned against stigma and for safe sex.

As swiftly as 1983, French

STOP AIDS

doctors pinpointed the cause: a pathogen which became known as the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Transmitted in semen, vaginal secretions, breast milk or blood, HIV hijacks key immune cells to reproduce itself, destroying the cell in the process.

After about half a dozen years that can be symptom-free, the immune system becomes so weak that the body becomes fatally exposed to TB, pneumonia and other opportune microbes.

Identifying HIV led to a test to help identify those infected and weed out contaminated blood samples.

It also unleashed optimism that in a couple of years a vaccine would be found, just as it had been found for smallpox and polio.

But the world is still waiting. The virus has so far eluded the vaccine engineers, for it comes with a slippery sugary coating and an astonishing ability to mutate.

With no vaccine, cure or treatment in sight, the death toll from AIDS mounted nightmarishly in the 1980s and 90s.

Newspaper headlines remembered the actors, rock stars and sporting heroes -- Rock Hudson, Freddy Mercury, Arthur Ashe -- but the millions of non-celebrity victims went unrecorded.

In 1996 came the great news: the first effective anti-HIV drugs were available at last.

The "cocktail" represses HIV to below detectable levels, although it is not a cure and can have hefty side-effects.

As their immune system miraculously rebounded, people who had literally been under a death sentence re-

turned to life.

But the previous drugs were so expensive that for half a dozen years, only rich countries could afford them.

A campaign is underway in Africa to promote male circumcision, found to reduce the infection risk to men by two-thirds.

Even more dramatic is a new study, conducted among heterosexual couples, that says anti-HIV drugs, if taken early to treat an infected person, can reduce the risk of viral transmission to a non-infected partner by 96 percent.

Other exciting work -- but still experimental -- points to progress in devising HIV-thwarting vaginal and anal gels.

Even so, "unless there is a game-changer like a vaccine, there probably will still be one million new infections a year in 2031," said Piot, now director of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

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Minister Otmar Oduber pleasantly surprised with EPI students expo



Demonstrating why buildings will fall and why the won't



Demonstrating why buildings will fall and why the won't



ORANJESTAD – This past weekend students of the Education Progressivo Intermediario – EPI College, conducted a science fair as part of the Destination Innovation Expo

the students.

He congratulated all entrants for their brilliant projects and encouraged them to continue with their studies.

organized by Aruba's Chamber of Commerce. Minister of Tourism, Transport and Labor, Otmar Oduber, was also present and stated his amazement at the diversity and ingenuity of the projects exhibited. "These demonstrate the high quality technology and innovation of the EPI students. In the near future, we will surely see some very successful professionals."

Among the projects: water heater using solar energy, solar energy projects to charge car batteries, a demonstration of how to insure a building's stability during an earthquake, and the first prize winner – a way to save electricity thru solar panel insulation.

Minister Oduber received detailed explanations on the function of the different projects and a demonstration of their functions from

A very special First Communion celebration at Carambola



With her good friends

Carambola owner Martin Haselhof was very proud to host and cater the fairly new restaurant's first First Communion party, but according to the celebrating Croes family, certainly not the last. The charming eatery's mezzanine provided the perfect setting for 8 year old Nathania Melisa Arielle Croes, with her parents Adolph and Sharine and brother Jonathan to share this august occasion with close family.

They enjoyed an elegant luncheon with a special menu prepared by Chef Harold, featuring a selection of Carambola's signature dishes and mellow music, along with sparkling mimosas with which to toast the young lady of honor.

Nathania and her friends had a special table for themselves and a kid's menu to choose from; allowing young girls to be girls, while grown ups enjoyed a most congenial celebration. Sharina did a beautiful job of setting up the day, making stunning personal menus for each guest, and Carambola decorated the mezzanine level appropriately, for a delightful and tasty First Communion celebration.

by Rosalie Klein



With mom and dad Adolph and Sharine and bro Jonathan



I trust that everything happens for a reason, even when we're not wise enough to see it.



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Feeling the love with Jennifer Hudson at the Soul Beach Music Festival 2011



Jennifer Hudson



Michael Jackson impersonator Alex.



Island Band Tsunami with San Martaan DJ.



The final concert of the Soul Beach Music Festival 2011 in the Joe Laveist Ballpark on Sunday, May 29, was another spectacular evening featuring show-stopping dreamgirl Jennifer Hudson, who answered the shouts of "We love you Jennifer" from the packed stadium with "I love you too!-but I sing better than I talk, so let me get back to entertaining you all."

And so she did, providing a dynamic end to the 11th edition of the SBMF on Aruba, along with Black Planet contest winner Muhsinah (the "h's" are silent-MOO-SEE-NA) who returns to Aruba after being back-up singer for Common 2 years ago. Opening the concert along with very popular local group Tsunami, she more than warmed up the audience



Black Planet contest winner Muhsinah on stage

for the main act, proving she is a talent deserving notice.

Mark Curry, special MC for this year's event also did a great job of keeping thousands laughing during the intervals between acts and unwittingly produced one of



the most memorable moments of the night. The laugh was on Mark when he asked producers to pluck two victims from the audience to come on stage for a mini dance contest. Little did he know that SBMF staffer Suzanne purposely choose Alex, an Aruban she met two nights previously, who is a world-class Michael Jackson impersonator, having placed in international competitions in Europe. When the DJ began playing "Beat It," Mark demonstrated pure amazement as Alex smoothly moon-walked across the stage, and the audience went

wild.

This continual interaction between headline celebrities and those attending the various concerts and events is one of the elements that make the SBMF such a popular event year after year where thousands choose to spend their Memorial Day weekend. This year, attendance was noticeably up, a positive indicator for the island's tourism generally, as well as the continued success of this outstanding event on Aruba's roster of festivals.

by Rosalie Klein

COMICS

PICKLES

SOMETIMES I WISH NELSON COULD STAY THIS AGE FOREVER.



YEAH, ME TOO. THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT WORKS, THOUGH.



I KNOW. SOMEDAY HE'S GOING TO BE A TEENAGER. CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT?



WELL, LOOK AT THE BRIGHT SIDE. MAYBE WE'LL BE DEAD BY THEN.



MOMMA

MOMMA, CAN I BORROW SOME MONEY?

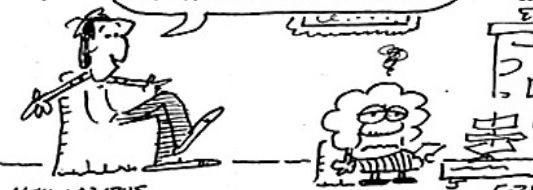


I HAVE NO MONEY!



I'M FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS IN DEBT!!

SO WHAT? UNLESS IT'S BALONEY, I HEAR WE HAVE A 14 TRILLION-DOLLAR DEBT LIMIT...



CALVIN and HOBBS

ALL RIGHT, CLASS. WHO WOULD LIKE TO GIVE HIS BOOK REPORT FIRST?



CALVIN, HOW ABOUT YOU?



CALVIN?



CALVIN? SPACEMAN SPIFF COOLY DRAWS HIS DEATH RAY BLASTER...



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CROSSWORD

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ACROSS

1. Zodiac animal
4. Representative (abbr.)
7. Comic Johnson
11. GI's address (abbr.)
12. Dove cries
14. ___ of admissions
15. Terrify
17. MP3 player from Apple
18. Antique car
19. Solid water

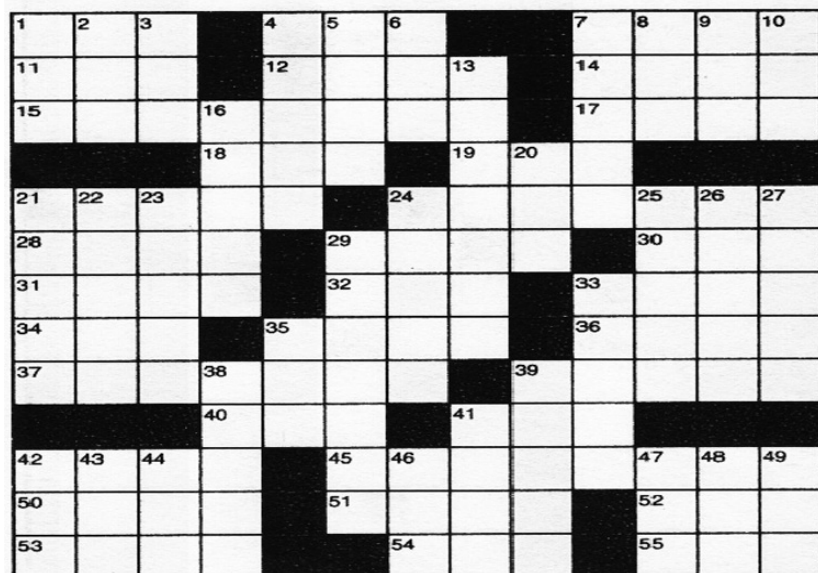
21. Founded (on)
24. Shoulder decoration
28. Noted fashion magazine
29. Very attentive
30. Timetable abbr.
31. Chess piece
32. "Chances ___"
33. Heal
34. Conjunction, for short
35. Spirited tune
36. Metallic deposits
37. Occurs
39. Huge amounts
40. Sci. workplace
41. Life story, for

- short
42. Floating arctic mass
45. Works
50. Verdi work
51. Artifice
52. ___ king (2 wds.)
53. Comic Foxx
54. Broiling ___
55. Fade

DOWN

1. English fliers (abbr.)
2. Rainy mo.
3. Miss Piggy's word for "me"
4. Felt sore
5. ___ bat for (2 wds.)
6. Boot front
7. Riviera

- departure word
8. GOP mem.
9. Eastern "truth"
10. Terminate
13. Fragment
16. "My Big Fat ___ Wedding"
20. Purring pet
21. Ship's bunk
22. Hawaii's "hello"
23. Ship like the "John B."
24. English titles
25. Actress Linney
26. Made mistakes
27. Locket prize
29. God's sign to Noah
33. Swiss Miss drink
35. Grassy area
38. Beg
39. Warning horn
41. Actor Lugosi
42. Remote
43. Commit perjury
44. Curious
46. Small fruit seed
47. Tiny amount
48. Wallach or Whitney
49. "Cheers" barkeep



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CAS MARIE
Alzheimer's Day
Care Center
Tel: 5696910

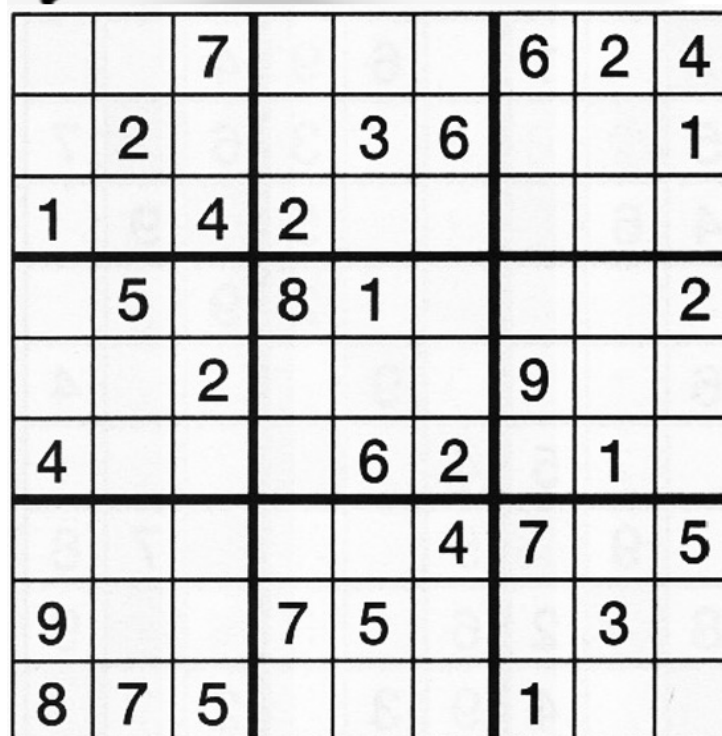
Important
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Numbers

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EMERGENCY
Telephone 911
POLICE HDQS
Telephone 100

TAXI
C.V. TAS
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In Oranjestad:
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582-5447
In San Nicolas
Tel. 584-5160, 584-6602
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Tel. 588-0035

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Sabana Liber 8 in Noord
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

9	4	1	8	2	6	5	7	3
8	3	2	1	9	7	4	6	5
5	6	7	4	8	9	1	3	2
2	1	9	3	5	4	8	6	7
3	8	6	7	4	9	2	1	5
7	9	4	6	1	8	3	5	2
6	5	3	8	2	7	4	9	1
1	2	8	9	3	4	6	7	5
4	7	2	9	5	1	7	8	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Ghana cocoa output soars to record high



ACCRA, Ghana (AFP) - Ghana's 2010-11 cocoa crop soared 53.9 percent to a record 904,000 tonnes and should continue growing, a spokesman for the Cocoa Board (Cocobod) said on Monday.

"The record production has been the result of concerted efforts by government, farmers, modern farming practices and payment of remunerative prices for farmers," spokesman Noah Amenya told AFP.

He said Cocobod has revised up its target for cocoa production in the current crop year because of favourable weather.

"We can boast of record production and hope to reach

the one million (tonnes) target by 2012-13," he said.

Analysts said higher prices paid to farmers in Ghana and political instability in Ivory Coast, the world's biggest producer, had helped.

Cocoa is one of Ghana's main foreign exchange earners.

"Since 1999, governments through Cocobod, put in place pragmatic measures to ensure that Ghana maintains the quality of its beans for which it is noted worldwide, to sustain and also increase cocoa production," Amenya said.

Ghana, one of the world's major producer of gold, last year also became an oil producer.

EU-IMF to conclude Greece audit this week: finance minister

ATHENS, Greece (AFP) - A critical audit of Greek finances to enable the debt-hit eurozone country to access a badly-needed slice of EU-IMF funds will conclude this week, the Greek finance minister said on Monday.

The talks with auditors from the EU, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank -- the 'troika' of creditors that bailed out Greece last year -- have dragged into an unprecedented fourth week and Athens' ongoing debt woes are causing friction in European capitals and market concern.

A German finance ministry source said the findings would be handed over "probably at the end of the week."

The head policymaker of eurozone finance ministers, Luxembourg Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker, said Monday he was "rather optimistic" on the outcome of the Greek debt puzzle, adding that European leaders would work on a solution by the end of June.

Greece has warned that it needs the next EU-IMF loan injection of 12 billion euros (\$17 billion) to pay its bills or it will run out of money in July.

Iran oil output 'may drop drastically by 2015'

TEHRAN, Iran (AFP) - Iran's oil production may fall to 2.7 million barrels per day within five years unless 150 billion dollars is invested in its energy sector, a top official said in a report on Monday.

"The national oil company plans to invest 150 billion dollars during the fifth development plan," which ends in 2015, said the deputy oil minister for planning, Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr, quoted by IRNA state news agency.

"If the investments are not realised..., the country's oil output will drop to 2.7 million barrels per day" from the current production of 3.7 million, he said.

The proposed investment would raise Iran's oil production capacity to 4.7 million pbd by 2015, from the current 4.0 million, while gas production would increase to 1,470 million cubic metres from 600 million, he said.

According to Khojasteh-Mehr, 75 billion dollars would be used to develop gas projects, 34 billion to develop oil fields, and 32 billion to maintain production capacity.

Sixty billion dollars would be financed by foreign investors despite tight economic and financial sanctions which world powers have imposed on Iran over its disputed nuclear programme, he said.

Another 50 billion dollars would come from the oil ministry, and 40 billion dollars would be invested by Iranian banks.

Iran is the second largest crude producer in the oil cartel OPEC and also has the world's second-largest natural gas reserves after Russia.

But the development of its oil and gas projects have been affected by the departure of major Western companies, as well as those from Japan and South Korea, due to international sanctions against the Iranian nuclear programme.

The companies however have been partially replaced by Chinese ones.

Lagarde launches Brazil charm offensive for top IMF post

BRASILIA (AFP) - France's Christine Lagarde sought Monday to rally support for her bid to lead the International Monetary Fund, promising on a visit to Brazil to "deepen" reforms at the institution.

Lagarde, France's finance minister, was in Brazil -- one of several emerging nations seeking an end to Europe's stranglehold on the powerful post -- on the first stop of an international tour.

"The main priority ahead is to continue and deepen reforms" in running the IMF, she said after a working lunch with her Brazilian counterpart Guido Mantega and Brazilian central bank chief Alexandre Tombini.

"I have proposed to Brazil, China, India and certain African countries" to pay a visit as part of her tour, Lagarde told Europe 1 radio earlier, adding that Brazil had been the first state to respond to her proposal.

Brazil is among the so-called BRICS group of emerging economic powers that also includes Russia, India, China and South Africa, which have criticized Europe's grip on the IMF, but have failed to agree on a candidate of their own.

Lagarde, a 55-year-old for-



Lagarde promised Brazil to "deepen" International Monetary Fund reforms that would give more power to emerging countries, if she is elected

mer lawyer, has been France's finance minister since 2007 and is heavily favored to succeed Dominique Strauss-Kahn as the top IMF official.

Strauss-Kahn, also French, has been charged with sexual assault in New York and resigned on May 19. He is on bail in the United States awaiting trial for attempted rape.

Traditionally, a European -- most often from France -- has led the IMF since its founding in 1945, while the United States supplies the president of the World Bank.

European countries con-

sider Lagarde's appointment as the next head of the IMF all but a done deal after US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton hailed her candidacy, a European official told AFP at the G8 summit.

So far, Lagarde has two declared rivals: Mexico's central bank chief Agustin Carstens and Kazakh central bank boss Grigory Marchenko.

Brazilian officials have said that Carstens was expected in Brasilia on Wednesday.

Brazil, like other emerging powers, will likely seek to boost its own IMF profile in talks with Lagarde, and may seek a guarantee that the next managing director will be from one of the BRICS states.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



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In the mood for BBQ -- discover where islanders go: Baby Back Ribs



Shawn thanks lonely planet for a great recommendation

Every town has this ideal location for a terrific restaurant, but eateries come and go because none quite gets the recipe right for good food and appealing price; Oranjestad had such a spot at the far end of its main street, and brother Merly and sister Joanne Kelly came up with the solution. The island ambiance allows diners to relax and watch as the world goes by, offering a window on local life.

Arubans love their barbecue, but so many places offer it, you better be sure you have the quality at the right price with appealing side dishes to compete. Baby Back Ribs has occupied this cute little corner for three years now, and is an unqualified success. Lunch and dinner time you will see the locals lined up to either take home a serving stacked with a large selection of favorite regional dishes, such as Saté or the always popular standards of BBQ chicken or ribs.

Baby Back Ribs has been such a success it earned a spot in the Lonely Planet

Caribbean Guide, which is dedicated to finding those great out of the way places tourists rarely discover and offer an authentic taste of their destination. Kristina and Shawn arrived on a cruise ship all the way from Alaska and confirmed that searching out Baby Back Ribs was well worth the effort. They shared the restaurant's ample portion of succulent spare ribs and awarded it two thumbs up.

Aside from the regular menu, the eatery offers at least three specials per day; usually costing \$5.50 for a regular portion and \$7 for the large, enough to feed two. They stay open late to cure a case of after disco munchies, and you can pre-order to take back to your timeshare or hotel room by calling 582-4410.

If you are planning a shopping trip to town, pencil it in as your lunch stop and be sure to order one of their great homemade sauces, such as Chimichuri Picante or Papaya Pica for an authentic taste of island cuisine.

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-Yolanda Cellucci, Boston, Mass

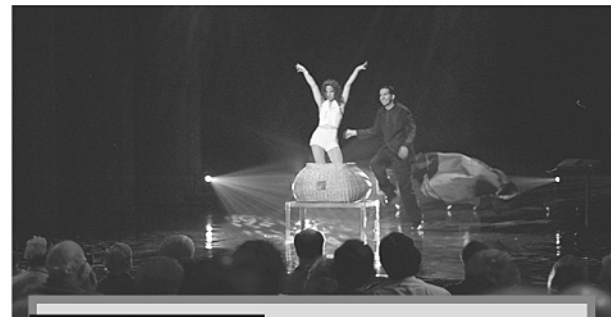
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IF YOU GO!

SHOWTIME: 9PM NIGHTLY

STARRING: Adam Steinfeld

WHAT: Comedy Magic, Grand Illusion show.

LOCATION: Westin Resort & Casino Aruba

THEATER OPENS: 8:30PM

BOX OFFICE OPENS: 8:00PM

COST: \$20 (under 15), \$40 adult / LOCALS: Afl. 40

TICKETS: at the door, Box office

Westin Lobby, up until **9PM** showtime
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After the ash, Iceland gets new volcanic fragrance

REYKJAVIK (AFP) – A designer who shot to fame with a line of perfume inspired by last year's flight-halting Eyjafjoell volcano said yesterday she would launch a new fragrance drawn from last week's eruption on Iceland.

After launching "EFJ Eyjafjallajoeukull," a women's perfume made from melt water from the glacier sitting on top of the Eyjafjoell volcano that erupted in April last year, Sigrun Lilja Gudjonsdottir said she would soon launch the "VJK Vatnajoeukull," a fragrance for men named after the glacier that straddles Grimsvoetn.

The new fragrance will also be made of glacial melt water and, like last year, will be made in Grasse, France's perfume capital. While the final scent has yet to be decided upon, Gudjonsdottir said it would be a "very masculine" fragrance that would evoke the power of of Grimsvoetn, which initially spewed ash 20 kilometres (12 miles) into the air.

Taking the workout to the back of the body

NEW YORK CITY – Crunches, curls and sit-ups may be standard workout fare in gyms, basements and living rooms across the land.

But the authors of a new book suggest people get plenty of that movement in their daily lives. They say to get a really strong midsection the back of the body needs to be worked.

"Sitting at desks, working on computers, waiting in traffic, we are continually contracting our abs, throwing our shoulders forward and, ultimately, shutting down the back of the body," said Dr. Eric Goodman, co-author with Peter Park of "Foundation: Redefine Your Core, Conquer Back Pain, and Move with Confidence."

"If we're going to keep our posture and our spines strong, it has to be done by exercising the back of the body as the core of the body," explained Goodman, a chiropractor based in Santa Barbara, California.

The exercises illustrated in the book require no machines or equipment and take the spine as the body's center of stability. In the signature, or founder exercise, knees are

bent over ankles, the body hinges from the hip joint, and movement originates in the pelvis, hips and hip joints.

"You're sticking your butt out on everything," explained Park, a trainer and owner of Platinum Fitness gyms, said. "We're aiming for the posterior chain."

Park is cycling great Lance Armstrong's strength and conditioning coach. The seven-time Tour de France winner wrote the forward for the book.

"Lance needed it more than anybody," Park said of the workout. "It opened him up. (With his) rounded back, rounded shoulders he almost looked funny off the bike."

The exercises are designed to augment, rather than replace, a regular fitness regime, Goodman said.

"We don't want people to stop doing yoga or Pilates. If you're currently doing cardio or other training just add foundation to it," Goodman said. "If you're doing it properly, 20 minutes is plenty. It's hard."

Neal Pire, spokesperson for the American College of Sports Medicine, said the concept of "hinging" or loading the posterior chain while main-

taining neutral spine is mainstream, but he's never seen a book entirely devoted to it.

"Extension is key, because we do indeed live in a flexed state," he said, adding that if the public perception is that abs are the core, the public is mistaken.

"The core involves two sets of muscles: deep muscles whose roles are primarily stabilizing the spine, or more generally the trunk, and shallower muscles whose primary role is movement," Pire explained.

Goodman advocates a four-to-one ratio of back-to-front training.

"For every four exercises you do for the back of the body, you get to do one for the front. I think that's the opposite of what most people are doing."



Park said too many workouts reinforce sedentary postures.

"You see a guy who is sedentary all day go to the gym, do bench presses and ride on a bike. He's reinforcing what he did all day," said Park.

"We're trying to bring everyone back to the center, where they should be. I think this is the missing link."

Nadal into last eight, Djokovic gets semi-final pass



Spain's Rafael Nadal

PARIS, France (AFP) – Five-time champion Rafael Nadal reached the French Open last eight on Monday as title rival Novak Djokovic enjoyed a major psychological boost when he was handed a free pass into the semi-finals.

Top seed Nadal enjoyed a 7-5, 6-3, 6-3 win over Croatian veteran Ivan Ljubicic and will next face Roland Garros bogeyman Robin Soderling, the only man to have beaten the great Spaniard in Paris in 43 matches.

Fifth seed Soderling, who has reached the last two finals, losing to Roger Federer in 2009 and Nadal in 2010, beat French 18th seed Gilles Simon 6-2, 6-3, 7-6 (7/5).

Nadal, bidding for a sixth French Open title to take him level with Bjorn Borg, has looked a shadow of his usual self in Paris, shaken by the form of Djokovic, who could take his title and number one spot before the week is out.

His mood would not have been improved by knowing that the Serbian second seed was excused quarter-final duty when scheduled opponent Fabio Fognini of Italy withdrew with a torn left thigh muscle.

Fognini, who had been due to play his first career Grand Slam quarter-final, suffered a tournament-ending injury in his marathon five-set fourth-round win over Albert Montanes on Sunday.

Djokovic said he felt sympathy for Fognini, a player he has defeated in both of their career meetings.

Soderling, who needed a fifth match point to defeat Simon for the sixth time in eight meetings, said he feels inspired every time he comes back to Paris.

French ninth seed Gael Monfils, a 2008 semi-finalist, set-up a last-eight clash with third seed Federer after defeating Spain's David Ferrer, the seventh seed, 6-4, 2-6, 7-5, 1-6, 8-6.

Monfils had led by two sets to one when the tie was suspended on Sunday night and despite squandering three match points in the ninth and 11th games of the decider on Monday, the 24-year-old eventually held his nerve.

Argentina's Juan Ignacio Chela shattered Alejandro Falla's dreams of becoming the first Colombian man to reach a Grand Slam quarter-final with a 4-6, 6-2, 1-6, 7-6 (7/5), 6-2 win.

He will face either British fourth seed Andy Murray, who is carrying an ankle injury, or Serbia's Victor Troicki for a place in the semi-finals.

"I was sure I'd never get to this stage again because of my age," said 31-year-old Chela, who made the last eight in 2004. "Now I feel younger."

Pakistan's Afridi retires from international game



KARACHI, Pakistan (AFP) – Pakistan's Shahid Afridi told AFP on Monday he was retiring from all international cricket, saying he was dejected after being replaced as one-day captain following a fiery clash with coach Waqar Younis.

The 31-year-old developed differences with Waqar during the team's 3-2 win against the West Indies earlier this month and his public criticism of the coach ultimately led to him losing the captaincy.

Afridi, who took over as Test and one-day captain last year, abruptly retired from the longer version of the game after

a heavy defeat against Australia at Lord's in July 2010.

He then led Pakistan to two one-day series defeats against England and South Africa before winning a 50-over series in New Zealand and guiding the team to the semi-finals of World Cup 2011 where they lost to eventual champions India.

Afridi lashed out at Waqar on his return from the West Indies. "Everyone should do his job and should be accountable for his work," said Afridi, reportedly irked at Waqar's interference in team selection.

When asked about his reported differences with the coach, Afridi replied: "The differences are not at a stage where they cannot be resolved."

Afridi said his decision to retire was final, as he would not play under the current PCB, headed by chairman Ijaz Butt, but hinted at a comeback if there was a change in leadership.



Taj Mahal

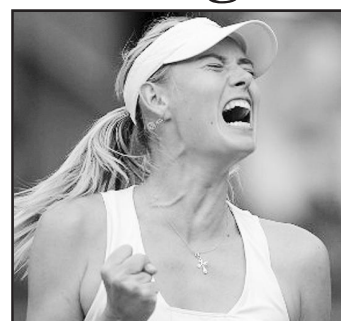
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Sharapova, Azarenka reach French Open last eight



Sharapova reacts after winning

PARIS, France (AFP) – Maria Sharapova showcased plenty of her famous grit to reach the French Open quarter-finals on Monday, edging Polish 12th seed Agnieszka Radwanska 7-6 (7/4), 7-5 in a tight contest.

She was joined in the last eight by Belarusian fourth seed Victoria Azarenka, the top-ranked player left in the draw, who beat Russia's Ekaterina Makarova 6-2, 6-3 to set up a clash with Chinese sixth seed Li Na.

Russian seventh seed Sharapova, a three-time Grand Slam champion, had to fight back from 4-1 down in the first set and survived five set points in the second en route to victory against the obdurate Radwanska.

She will now meet Andrea Petkovic for a place in the semi-finals, after the German 15th seed overcame Sharapova's 25th-seeded countrywoman Maria Kirilenko 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

The 24-year-old Shara-

pova, who hit back from a set and 4-1 down against French 17-year-old Caroline Garcia in round two, hit 47 winners and made 44 unforced errors in a performance full of contrasts.

The former world number one was 4-1 and 40-15 down in the opening set on Court Philippe Chatrier before battling back to take the first set in a tie-break.

She then fell 5-3 down in the second, but held her nerve to see off five set points -- two at 5-3 and three at 5-4 -- before sealing victory on her first match point when a tense rally culminated with a wide backhand from Radwanska.

Azarenka, the top-seeded remaining player after Caroline Wozniacki, Kim Clijsters and Vera Zvonareva were eliminated, encountered few problems against the unseeded Makarova on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

She now faces Li, who had earlier become the first player from China to reach the Roland Garros quarter-finals with a disjointed 2-6, 6-1, 6-3 defeat of 21-year-old Czech ninth seed Petra Kvitova.

Despite her superior seeding, Azarenka has beaten Li just once in four attempts -- most recently losing in the last 16 at the Australian Open -- and has never gone beyond the quarter-finals at a Grand Slam.

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Phillips' first homer wins it for Padres in extras

ATLANTA -- Kyle Phillips' home run in the 10th inning Monday lifted the Padres to a 3-2 victory over the Braves before a crowd of 25,832 at Turner Field.

Phillips' home run off Braves reliever George Sherrill was the first of his career.

The Padres (23-31) looked in position to break a tie in the ninth when they loaded the bases off Braves reliever

Jonny Venters. But Venters got pinch-hitter Jorge Cantu to hit into a 3-2-3 double play to end the inning.

The Padres scored first, as Eric Patterson led off the game with a single, stole second base and later scored on Ryan Ludwick's ground ball.

Atlanta pitcher Tim Hudson allowed two runs (one earned) on five hits with no walks and seven strikeouts.

San Diego pitcher Aaron Harang was nearly as good, allowing two runs on six hits in six innings. He had two walks and five strikeouts.

Tigers top Twins on Avila's RBI double

DETROIT -- Alex Avila's double inside third base drove in the go-ahead run in the eighth inning, which allowed a run to score on fan interference, as the Detroit Tigers defeated the Minnesota Twins, 6-5.

Avila's hit appeared to ricochet off a fan, but rather than ruling the hit a ground-rule double, the umpires ruled the ball to have hit a fan after bouncing off the fence in foul territory, allowing the Tigers to take a lead they would not give up.

The Tigers couldn't have gotten off to a much better start in the game, as starter Brad Penny threw an eight-pitch inning -- all of them for strikes -- and the offense scored two runs in the bottom of the inning, as the Tigers took an early 2-0 lead.

The Twins scored a run in the fourth and took the lead in the fifth with a four-run inning.

But the Tigers fought back, tying the game at 5 on a two-run home run from designated hitter Victor Martinez.

After the Tigers took the lead in the eighth, pitcher Jose Valverde took the mound for the third time in two days and shut down the Twins, with help from a diving catch from outfielder Don Kelly for the final out.

Miami's star power faces Nowitzki-led Mavs



LOS ANGELES (AFP) -- The Miami Heat and Dallas Mavericks will square off in a 2006 NBA finals rematch that features two teams who have good reason to believe they can each win the series.

The Heat have LeBron James and his gang while the Mavericks depend on star German forward Dirk Nowitzki and his band of merry men.

Less than a year after Dwyane Wade persuaded James and Chris Bosh to come to South Beach, the Heat are living up to expectations by making it all the way to the NBA's showcase.

After a rocky start, the superstar trio have come a long way and they are backed up by as good a supporting cast as Miami could afford under the salary cap.

The Heat face the Mavericks in game one today.

The Mavericks were the first team to reach the finals by beating Oklahoma City 100-96 on Wednesday in game five of their Western semi-final series. The Heat followed them a day later by defeating the Chicago Bulls

83-80 in game five of the Eastern final.

This is just the second post-season meeting between Miami and Dallas. The Mavericks won both games against the Heat during the regular season as both contests took place in the first two months of the season.

The Mavericks are built around depth. They rely on Nowitzki for most of their scoring. Their bench is deeper than Miami's so their number two scorer usually depends on who has the hot hand on any particular night.

"I like the team," Nowitzki said. "I think we're deep and we can play all sorts of styles. So, we'll see what happens."

Nowitzki can't stop thinking about the 2006 loss but says he's not motivated by revenge.

"It doesn't really matter that much to me," Nowitzki said. "We had a huge chance in '06 and let it slip away, so we've got another crack at it."

Most experts agree that you need two superstars to win the NBA title these days. Look at Jordan and Pippen, Kobe and Shaq or Kobe and Gasol. Miami certainly has

that but Dallas lost their No. 2 man when Caron Butler went down with a torn tendon in his right knee on January 1.

One of the key matchups is at power forward where Bosh will go up against Nowitzki, who along with James is the hottest player in the post-season right now.

Bosh will have his hands full with Nowitzki, who has missed just two free throws in 61 tries.

Another intriguing battle will see the league's dominant player James go up against Dallas' Shawn Marion.

James is in the midst of the best playoff of his career and has proved his value with post-season games on the line, making key three pointers and stepping up defensively. He thoroughly outplayed Bulls Derrick Rose in the semi-finals, making some wonder if the league MVP should have gone to James for the third-straight year.

Marion scored 26 points in the Mavericks Western Conference final clincher and has helped make up for the loss of Butler.

MLB Standings

American League

East	W	L	Pct	GB
BOSTON	30	23	.566	--
NY YANKEES	28	23	.549	1.0
TAMPA	28	24	.538	1.5
TORONTO	27	26	.509	3.0
BALTIMORE	24	27	.471	5.0

Central

CLEVELAND	31	19	.620	--
DETROIT	26	26	.500	6.0
KANSAS	23	29	.442	9.0
CHICAGO	24	31	.436	9.5
MINNESOTA	17	34	.333	14.5

West

TEXAS	28	25	.528	--
LA ANGELES	28	27	.509	1.0
SEATTLE	26	26	.500	1.5
OAKLAND	27	27	.500	1.5

National League

East

PHILADELPHIA	33	20	.623	--
FLORIDA	30	21	.588	2.0
ATLANTA	30	24	.556	3.5
NY METS	24	28	.462	8.5
WASHINGTON	22	30	.423	10.5

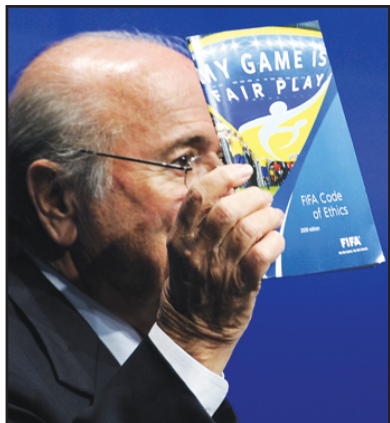
Central

ST. LOUIS	32	22	.593	--
MILWAUKEE	29	24	.547	2.5
CINCINNATI	27	27	.500	5.0
PITTSBURG	24	27	.471	6.5
CHICAGO	23	28	.451	7.5
HOUSTON	19	34	.358	12.5

West

ARIZONA	29	24	.547	--
SAN FRANCISCO	28	24	.538	0.5
COLORADO	25	27	.481	3.5
LA DODGERS	24	30	.444	5.5
SAN DIEGO	22	31	.415	7.0

Crisis what crisis? Blatter rejects graft claims



FIFA President Blatter holds the FIFA Code of Ethics during a press conference on May 30

ZURICH (AFP) - FIFA President Sepp Blatter shrugged off the corruption allegations engulfing football's governing body here Monday, denying the sport was in crisis and ruling out a new vote for the 2022 World Cup.

After days of widespread claims and counter-claims of corruption that saw two top officials suspended pending a bribery investigation, Blatter broke his silence in a stormy solo press conference at FIFA headquarters.

"Crisis, what is a crisis?" a clearly irritated Blatter said. "We are not in a crisis. We are only in some difficulties and these will be solved."

Blatter also rejected suggestions that the vote for the 2022 World Cup -- controversially awarded to the oil-rich Gulf state of Qatar -- should be held again amid mounting allegations of bribery involving the bid.

"There is no issue for the World Cup in 2022," the 75-year-old Swiss said. "I believe that the decision taken for the World Cup in 2022 was done exactly in the same pattern and in the same way as the 2018 tournament."

Blatter was speaking two days before he is due to be re-

elected unopposed by FIFA's congress following the stunning withdrawal of Qatari election rival Mohamed bin Hammam on Sunday.

Bin Hammam pulled out of the bitterly acrimonious election race just hours before FIFA's ethics committee suspended him and Jack Warner, the influential head of the Caribbean, North and Central American federation (CONCACAF).

Asian Football Confederation chief bin Hammam -- who earlier Tuesday vowed to appeal his suspension -- and FIFA vice president Warner were accused of attempting to bribe voters in the election with cash payments of up to \$40,000.

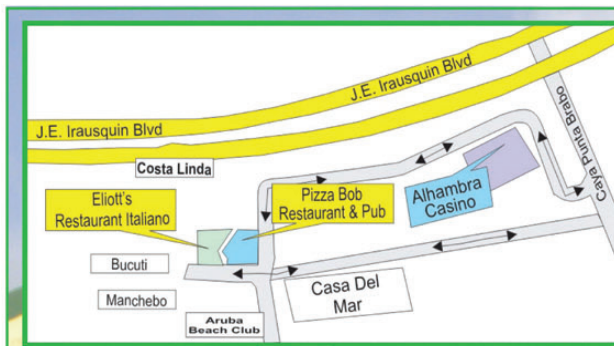
Blatter said the absence of bin Hammam from the election was no reason to postpone Wednesday's vote, where he will be seeking a final and fourth term following 13 years in power.

"We are not in a bazaar," he replied at one point as reporters shouted out questions to him.

Blatter's appearance followed another day of frenzied mud-slinging, where both Warner and bin Hammam railed against the leadership of the 75-year-old Swiss official.

"At the end of the day, Blatter has to be stopped," Warner said earlier, after accusing the FIFA chief of giving one regional confederation \$1 million with no questions asked at a meeting earlier this month.

Warner also released an email from FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke in which the official said he believed Qatar had "bought" the hosting rights to the 2022 tournament, prompting a furious denial from Qatar's 2022 bid team.



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Dilshan in disbelief as collapse hands England victory

LONDON (AFP) - Sri Lanka captain Tillakaratne Dilshan was at a loss to explain his side's slump to 82 all out that handed England a stunning innings victory in the first Test here on Monday.

This first of a three-match series appeared to be meandering towards a rain-affected draw when England,

declared on 496 for five -- a first innings lead of 96.

But Sri Lanka, whose strength would appear to be their batting, were then dismissed in under 25 overs to give England an innings and 14-run win.

The experienced top-order trio of Dilshan, Kumar Sangakkara and Mahela Jay-

wardene managed just 29 runs between.

"It's very difficult to explain, I can't believe we got out in just 25 overs with such a good batting line-up like we have," Dilshan told reporters after seeing Sri Lanka bowled out for their lowest Test total in England, beating their 141 in Birmingham five years ago.

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